CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A user interface for use with a computer system, said user interface comprising:

selecting means for selecting from a list of predetermined applications and outputting a selection signal;

a conflict map containing a list of conflicts between the list of predetermined applications; and

conflict checking means, coupled to the selecting means and the conflict map, for receiving the selection signal, determining from the selection signal and the conflict map whether a potential conflict could occur, and outputting a display message if a determination is made that a potential conflict could occur.

2. The user interface of claim 1, wherein said selecting means comprises a remote control, said user interface further comprises:
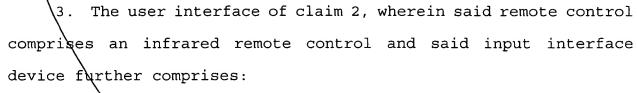
an input device interface, for receiving signals from the remote control and converting the signals from the remote control into command signals.

1   3. The user interface of claim 2, wherein said remote control

2   comprises an infrared remote control and said input interface

3   device further comprises:

4   converting means for converting infrared remote control

5   signals to USB signals, said converting means receiving an infrared

6   remote control signal, determining context of use of the infrared

7   remote control signal, and generating a corresponding USB signal to

8   communicate the infrared remote control signal to an intended

9   device.

4   4. A method of selecting among a predetermined plurality of

2   applications to run on a computer system for presentation on a

3   display screen, comprising the steps of:

4   selecting from a list of predetermined applications and

5   outputting a selection signal,

6   receiving the selection signal and determining from the

7   selection signal and a conflict map containing a list of conflicts

8   between the list of predetermined applications whether a potential

9   conflict could occur, and

10   outputting a display message if a determination is made that

11   a potential conflict could occur.

1   5.   The method of claim 4, wherein said step of outputting a

2 display message further comprises the step of:

3   prompting a user to select another application if a

4 determination is made that a potential conflict could occur.

1   6.   The method according to claim 5, further comprising the

2 steps of:

3   determining whether a television or a computer monitor has

4 been connected to the computer system, and

5   selecting hardware in a video output device in the computer

6 system to engage alternate video ports to produce a optimal quality

7 output in response to said determining step.

1   7.   A method for selecting one of at least two predetermined

2 device application modes in a television set-top system, comprising

3 the steps of:

4   selecting a first device application mode from a predetermined

5 menu of device application modes, which menu includes at least two

6 such predetermined device application modes,

7   determining whether a second of said at least two such

8 predetermined device application modes is active, and

initiating television presentation of activities relating to

10   said first device application mode.

1   8.   The method according to claim 7, further comprising the

2   step of:

3   halting the second of said at least two such predetermined

4   device application modes upon initiation of the first device

5   application mode.

1   9.   The method according to claim 7, further comprising the

2   step of:

3   minimizing the second of said at least two such predetermined

4   device application modes upon initiation of the first device

5   application mode.

1   10.   The method according to claim 7, further comprising the

2   step of:

3   presenting images relating to the second of said at least two

4   such predetermined device application modes in a selected window.

1   11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said selected

2   window is subordinated in a web browser environment.

1   12. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the

2   step of:

3   presenting a control panel for setting operating parameters

4   for the second of said at least two such predetermined device

5   application modes within a selected window.

13. The method according to claim 7, wherein step of
selecting comprises the step of selecting with a remote control
device.

1   14. The method according to claim 7, wherein step of

2   selecting comprises the step of selecting through an on-screen

3   emulation of a remote control device.

1   15. The method according to claim 7, wherein said step of

2   selecting is made by clicking a mouse over an active portion of a

3   screen image of a control panel image.

16.   A set-top system comprising:.

a television for producing images according to one or more application modes;

a device in communication with said television, said device containing circuitry for implementing at least two predetermined application modes; and

a controller for selecting an application mode,

wherein said device is configured to determine activation status of at least a single non-selected application mode when a particular other activation mode is selected.

17.   The set-top system of claim 16, wherein said controller further comprises a selecting means for selecting from a list of predetermined applications and outputting a selection signal, and said controller further comprises:

a conflict map containing a list of conflicts between the list of predetermined applications; and

conflict checking means, coupled to the selecting means and the conflict map, for receiving the selection signal, determining from the selection signal and the conflict map whether a potential conflict could occur, and outputting a

11   display message if a determination is made that a potential

12   conflict could occur.

1   18.   The set-top system of claim 17, wherein said selecting

2   means comprises a remote control, said user interface further

3   comprises:

4   an input device interface, for receiving signals from the

5   remote control and converting the signals from the remote control

6   into command signals.

1   19.   The set-top system of claim 18, wherein said remote

2   control comprises an infrared remote control and said input

3   interface device further comprises:

4   converting means for converting infrared remote control

5   signals to USB signals, said converting means receiving an infrared

6   remote control signal, determining context of use of the infrared

7   remote control signal, and generating a corresponding USB signal to

8   communicate the infrared remote control signal to an intended

9   device.

20. A computer readable computer program product expressed in a selected computer readable medium, comprising:

a first computer code mechanism for selecting a first device application mode from a predetermined menu of device application modes, which menu includes at least two such predetermined device application modes;

a second computer code mechanism for determining whether a second of said at least two such predetermined device application modes is active; and

a third computer code mechanism for initiating television presentation of activities relating to said first device application mode.